



**Great Smoky Mountains National Park**  
**[www.nps.gov/grsm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm)**

## **Stewardship, Education**

*The following centennial proposal is certified as eligible for Centennial Challenge funding consideration in fiscal year 2008. Funding for the Centennial Challenge requires legislation.*

### **Develop Parks as Classrooms with Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians**

Location: North Carolina, Cherokee

Partner(s): Friends of the Smokies

Partner Website: [www.friendsofthesmokies.org](http://www.friendsofthesmokies.org)

Total Cost: \$146,000

Proposal # 137525

**Summary:** As part of a long-standing partnership with Pi Beta Phi Elementary School in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, students participate in 37 units of Parks as Classrooms instruction in the park during their K-8 school experience. The program provides high quality academic instruction while instilling a desire in students to be stewards of their parks. Park staff would like develop a similar program with the Cherokee Tribal Schools. The Parks as Classrooms model will offer Cherokee students in grades K-8 integrated North Carolina curriculum units that progress through all grade levels and build from year to year. When the students reach 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the model will enable students to participate in partnership service learning projects, preparing the next generation to be good stewards of parks and their communities.

**For more information contact:**

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Parks As Classrooms students learn about the park.